



September 23, 2011

WCB  
USF

1403

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to you during a critical review period as you work to reform the Universal Service Fund (USF). As technology, management, and business practices change, the programs concerning these issues within the federal government must also be reformed. We are encouraged by the recent discussions with Idaho stakeholders. You have already received a careful review process and feedback that gives you and the FCC an opportunity to reform and update the USF and its core mission mandate and goals.

As representatives of a rural state, our delegation has a strong interest in ensuring the viability of an efficient and cost-effective USF. We have noted that the telecommunication industry has been working closely with the FCC and has submitted consensus ideas for meaningful reform in which to meet the new demands of a broadband age. These reforms call for the USF to be brought back to fiscal sustainability and better serve rural target areas that have legitimate needs. We applaud those efforts.

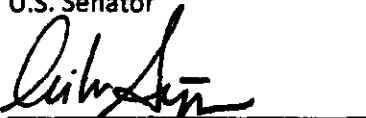
The future success of extending robust broadband service to rural areas of the United States, like Idaho, rests with resources like the USF. As stated as one of its mission goals, the USF is to: "Advance the availability of such services to all consumers, including those in low income, rural, insular, and high cost areas at rates that are reasonably comparable to those charged in urban areas." We look forward to continuing this important work together as the FCC strives to fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,


 

Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senator

James Risch  
U.S. Senator



Mike Simpson  
U.S. Representative



Raul Labrador  
U.S. Representative

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

The Commission's Order will create jobs beginning in 2012, and lay the foundation for enduring job creation, economic growth, and U.S. global competitiveness for years to come.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Order's "Executive Summary." Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

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United States Senate  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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